

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10-12, 14 and 15 now stand in the present application, claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 14 and 15 having been amended, and claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 13 and 16-22 having been canceled. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

A key feature of Applicant's invention which is believed not to be taught or suggested by any of the prior art references is the provision for movement of one icon (animated graphical representation) in such a way that the order of the icons in the field of view is not conserved in certain circumstances. More particularly, the icon of one of the users moves to a position at the center of the field of view of each of the others (despite the fact that those fields of view are different in other respects) in order to access the white board facility. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 6 in order to more clearly recite this key feature of their invention.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 16-19 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Leahy et al. and has rejected claims 5, 10, 15 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leahy et al. and further in view of Shiio et al. In view of the above-described claim amendments, the present claims are now believed to patentably define over the references cited by the Examiner as well as those references identified in the Information Disclosure Statement being filed concurrently herewith, as will be described in greater detail below.

Leahy et al. does not teach or suggest the conservation of angular position while distorting the field of view such that all of the representatives are contained within the field of view of the users' display device, as now more clearly recited in the amended

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claims. This key feature of Applicant's invention is simply not believed to be taught or suggested by any of the cited references or by any of those references listed on the Information Disclosure Statement that is being filed concurrently with this Amendment. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 6 and their respective dependent claims are believed to patentably define over the cited art taken either singly or in combination.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10-12, 14 and 15, now standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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